

1.00 ASSESSMENT GRANT PROPOSAL BUDGET

The budget for this project is summarized in the table below. Budget explanation details and a description of each task are presented in Appendix A.

Project Budget/Tasks					
Budget Categories	Task 1 Phase I ESAs and Inventory	Task 2 Phase II ESAs	Task 3 Site Reuse Planning	Task 4 Community Outreach	Task 5 Administration
Personnel	\$5,000		\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
Travel				\$2,000	\$10,000
Equipment				\$5,000	
Supplies				\$3,000	
Contractual	\$20,000	\$200,000	\$35,000	\$5,000	
Other (seminars, workshops and training)				\$20,000	
Totals:	\$25,000	\$200,000	\$55,000	\$50,000	\$20,000

2.00 ASSESSMENT GRANT CRITERIA

Detailed responses have been provided for each of the Assessment Grant Criteria below.

A. Sustainable Reuse of Brownfields/Development Potential

A.1 Criteria Response

As a result of the original Pilot efforts, the 10.8-acre Goldberg Brother's Salvage Yard located at the entrance to Hyde Park is currently undergoing cleanup and is expected to meet Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division (EPD) non-residential standards by Fall 2003, and preliminary concepts for redevelopment plans are being discussed.

With this Grant, we seek to expand our assessment activities and redevelopment potential by combining our Pilot site with an adjacent former industrial Brownfields, the former Richmond Recycling site (once operated by Goldberg) and the adjacent Hyde Park Neighborhood; hereinafter referred to as the Expansion Project. As with the Pilot site, these new sites constitute an eyesore, do not presently contribute to the local economy or tax base, and remain health hazards to the community. Figure 1 at the end of this proposal shows the Expansion Project area.

Our vision will be to ultimately provide development-ready land to support a non-manufacturing business and technology park, and professional office space. The business/technology park and offices will be integrated into the adjacent residential community through the inclusion of greenspace and small community parks that will include wildlife habitat areas, walking/jogging trails, a community education/training center, and a non-profit community recreational facility. This combined development-ready land with excellent access off a major highway will be significantly more attractive to investors, expand reuse potential, provide key infrastructure services and educational investments,

mitigate potential health risks, and establish sustainable economic vitality to the area.

To implement this vision, we are researching and in preliminary discussions with several investors, developers, and environmentally friendly businesses to locate within the target area. By recycling/reusing these properties we strongly believe that this would ensure not only sustainable reuse, but reduce or eliminate the potential for environmental impacts thereby protecting the environment, prevent the creation of future brownfields, and as such mitigate any remaining concerns regarding human health within the area. Sustainable reuse of these former industrial sites is vital to providing future business locations to support the local economy without developing other areas, and providing quality employment for existing and future residents of the area.

Redevelopment of these existing brownfields will help in reducing sprawl through other areas presently containing valuable natural resources and provide a much needed boost to our depressed local economy. Our very low-income residents will find opportunities for quality employment within their locality without the necessity of commuting away from home using additional natural resources in the process. The constraints of commuting by any means for this very low-income population is prohibitive and results in continuing unemployment.

Redevelopment will also improve the current and future residents' quality of life by providing an environmentally and physically safe place to reside and work. Since this initiative is lead by the community and has tremendous community support and involvement in the decision making process, we feel that our Pilot and Expansion Project will serve as a model both regionally and nationally.

The site area was at one time a natural wetland similar to the nearby Phinizy Swamp. We envision in our final redevelopment plans to restore portions of the target area to an approximately two-acre low-lands habitat and/or wetland area that would also include signage and educational opportunities for the community. By returning the land to its original natural state, it will serve as an example for future generations.

A.2 Criteria Response

One of the objectives of this Grant and the Augusta Brownfields Commission (Commission) is to develop a unified and comprehensive conceptual site redevelopment and revitalization plan for both the Pilot and the new sites. With this Expansion Project, we will be one step closer toward meeting this objective for the Hyde Park community. Additionally, the Expansion Project will help in meeting Augusta's overall goal of identifying other Brownfield sites throughout its environs, and developing a Master Brownfield Redevelopment Plan for the entire Augusta - Richmond County.

The blighting effect of the Pilot and these adjacent sites has contributed to the general deterioration, reduced tax base, and disinvestments in the target area. The economic inactivity with these sites further contributes to the slow or negative job growth and associated unemployment for this low-income community. With the addition of the two new sites several major tasks will be accomplished. By enlarging the site area it will be more attractive to investors and expand its potential for reuse; and this will also lead to expanded environmental investigations and cleanup making Hyde Park and the entire Augusta community not only an environmentally safer place to reside, but providing the economic stimulation that this very low-income neighborhood desperately needs for survival. Developers are telling us that if remedial costs can be quantified, a major roadblock to redevelopment would be eliminated.

As discussed A.1 above, our goal is to attract environmentally-friendly non-manufacturing and technology businesses to locate on the sites. We also want to develop a community education and training center to assist our low-income community members with training in order to become marketable and attain gainful employment (e.g., apprenticeships), and educational opportunities (e.g., GED, health care, and parenting courses). We are currently discussing collaboration on our educational endeavors with Augusta Technical College and Augusta State University. We want to develop a non-profit community recreational facility for our community that offers a safe place for our community's children to play. Finally, we want to develop greenspace and parks, walking/jogging trails and a wildlife habitat area that will not only enhance the sites, but provide further educational opportunities for the community.

The redevelopment of these properties would also fit with the Augusta–Richmond County Comprehensive Plan Unincorporated Richmond County Land Use and Infrastructure Element Update, dated August 1995. This Master Plan discusses the “extensive problems related to the location of industrial and residential land uses next to one another”, the “soil and groundwater problems,” and that “the concerns and needs of the existing residential area need to be addressed through various types of actions and programs.”

A.3 Criteria Response

The sites presently offer no support to the economic base of the community. However, they do have excellent redevelopment potential and accessibility for future business locations and as said above, combining the sites make it more attractive to investors. Redevelopment will also result in an increase in local employment opportunities, skilled training and education, investment potential that will ultimately improve the local tax base and economy via increased personal spending and investment within the local area.

As a long-term result of this Grant and creation of final comprehensive redevelopment plans, we expect that hundreds of jobs will be created, that property values will increase by approximately 25 to 30 percent, and through increased spending by gainfully employed community members that sales tax revenues will increase by 15 percent. However, without federal assistance and this Grant, assessment and remediation activities are unlikely to occur, and both economic and aesthetic conditions within the residential community will continue to deteriorate.

We are presently researching environmentally friendly businesses, and have begun preliminary discussions with several investors, including a major hotel chain, and developers about investing or locating within the target area. However, without quantification of the remedial costs that will result from this Grant, investors and developers are reluctant to commit resources at this time. Cleanup of the previous Pilot site alone is not enough to spur redevelopment due to the size and remaining adjacent blighted properties. What we found through the work on the initial Pilot site is if these sites are combined, the majority of the blighted properties as well as those presenting the greatest human and environmental health risks are addressed, and the site becomes larger and therefore much more economically viable for redevelopment.

B. Reduction of Threats to Human Health and the Environment

B.1 Criteria Response

By nature, Brownfields properties are generally uncharacterized with potentially adverse impacts to human health and the environment. In 1984, the Georgia EPD determined that wells had been

contaminated by industries in the Hyde Park neighborhood. Additional investigations by the EPA and others, and continuing to date have found significant contamination at the Pilot site, along its perimeter, and in a drainage ditch that bisects the Hyde Park residential area.

Specifically:

- EPA (1993) found high levels of lead, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in ditch sediments (Hyde Park residential area); high levels of metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and semi-volatile organic compounds (sVOCs) in on-site soils (Pilot); and metals in both groundwater and sediment.
- Georgia EPD (1995) found heavy metals (Cr, Se, Cd, Pb, and Hg) above notification criteria in the Hyde Park ditch sediments, and lead above criteria in ditch surface water.
- Consultant (1995) found PCBs (up to 1 ppm) and lead in stormwater outflows migrating toward Hyde Park.
- EPA (1997) found polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) up to 15 ppm, PCBs at 21 ppm, and lead up to 1,400 ppm (Hyde Park residential sites which led to soil removal actions in 1998); and a radiation source (Pilot).
- Consultant(s) (2000) found metals (As, Ba, Cd, Cr, Pb, Ag, and Hg) above criteria and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) at 5,900 ppm (Pilot); and metals (As, Cd, Pb, Ni and Hg), and PCBs along the Pilot perimeter.
- Consultant (2002) found elevated levels of antimony and cadmium in shallow groundwater on the Pilot site; groundwater flow direction was observed as flowing toward the Hyde Park residents.

It is anticipated that since one of the proposed additional sites (former Richmond Recycling) had similar utilization as a scrap metal yard and the same operational management and/or utilization as the Pilot, that environmental contaminants and impacts will be of similar nature and extent. As noted above, previous environmental studies show that contamination from the Pilot site has migrated to adjacent homes in Hyde Park. Residents are living in “fear” that their properties may also be contaminated. Investigation and remediation of these sites and the surrounding neighborhood is necessary to mitigate impacts and reduce threats to human health and the environment.

Health concerns have been communicated extensively to the Richmond County Health Department (RCHD). These included: respiratory disease; burning and itching of the eyes; harsh and persistent coughs; hair loss, headaches, runny nose, and sinusitis; skin rashes (non-healing ulcers, fungus, and keratoses); stillborn infants or death shortly following birth; mental health and emotional stressors; and cancers (brain, bone, colon, lung, and skin).

Several health studies have been conducted in Hyde Park by the RCHD and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Control (ATSDR) within the past few years. Residents of the area have asserted that pollutants from current and former industrial activities are the cause of numerous health problems. The RCHD received a grant from the Georgia State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care to investigate and document concerns of the communities (predominantly Hyde Park), and the findings resulted in a Health Intervention Project by ATSDR. The stated purpose of the ATSDR project was “to assist a community bearing a disproportionate burden of adverse living conditions as compared to the total population.” The project was not an epidemiological study and was not designed to establish nor define a cause-and-affect relationship. There were 242 participants in the study that received a comprehensive metabolic profile, urinalysis, complete blood count, blood lead, and some specialty tests as necessary. The findings showed: hypertension (33%); keratoses including actinic,

suspected arsenical, seborrheic, and keratoderma (30%), followup arsenic tests were performed with no significant findings; numerous abnormal laboratory findings; and a history of miscarriage in 29% of females.

The study concluded that it was possible that there could be an environmental influence affecting the health of this community. The study also suggested that the number of abnormal laboratory findings be monitored on a long term basis. A total of 27% of the study population were referred to specialists of other health agencies for followup. A mental health assessment was also conducted that found numerous emotional stressors related to living conditions and the associated proximity to industrial sites. While no conclusive evidence has been found linking these cancers and/or chronic health problems with on- or off-site industrial contaminants, the perception remains within the community that these problems stem from long-term exposure to contaminants from industrial contaminants including the target properties.

With the Grant, we intend to contract environmental professionals to perform Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) following the ASTM E-1527 standard. Phase I ESA results will be used to develop scope(s) of work for the Phase II ESAs at the targeted sites in accordance with appropriate guidance provided by the EPD and EPA. Work Plans, including Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) and site-specific Sampling and Analysis Plans (SAPs), will be developed for the sites in consultation with EPD and EPA. Where appropriate, cost-saving techniques (e.g., field screening technologies) will be utilized to maximize the use of Grant monies and reduce costs of the environmental investigation. During the investigations institutional enforcement and/or engineering controls will be used as applicable to protect human health and the environment.

Additionally, based upon the results of the Phase II ESAs, remedial action plans will be developed for the sites and impacted residential properties. Based upon our comprehensive understanding of the Pilot soil and groundwater characteristics and groundwater flow we will be able to streamline our investigation, SAPs, and the remedial action plans for the sites. This will allow us to make the Expansion Project not only more efficient, but more cost-effective and consistent with the planned reuse of the property. Further, based upon our success at the Pilot we expect to achieve similar goals that will result in protecting human health and the environment. The information gained by use of the Grant monies to develop remedial action plans will be useful in site cleanup and redevelopment efforts that will ultimately result in reduction of threats to human health and the environment within the target area.

B.2 Criteria Response

As in any environmental investigation there exists the possibility of disturbing the soils through drilling activities and/or excavation and potentially releasing contaminants that may impact the soils or groundwater beneath the site(s). Further, as with other former industrial sites certain unknowns may exist at the sites such as underground storage tanks (USTs), buried drums and other hazardous materials. All reasonable care will be taken to minimize impacts to the soils, groundwater, and surface water runoff. This will be accomplished by utilizing the professional judgment of highly experienced and skilled environmental professionals, the placement of strategic engineering or institutional controls, project oversight by seasoned environmental project managers, and monitoring of the environment during and following investigation activities. All investigation-derived wastes (drill and boring materials) will be contained and tested prior to being properly disposed. All soil borings will be backfilled with clean soil to grade. Onsite health and safety equipment will monitor the air for release of contaminants at unsafe levels.

With our comprehensive understanding of the soil characteristics, groundwater flow, and surface water runoff patterns that are the result of the investigations at the Pilot site, we do not anticipate encountering unanticipated problems during assessment activities. However, in the event that a release to the environment does occur we will incorporate emergency response notification through the existing community telephone network. Further, as part of the assessment activities the public will be notified in advance what may be expected during the activities, and be provided contact information if there are questions or concerns. Individuals will also be contacted and access obtained in advance if their residence is involved in the assessment.

B.3 Criteria Response

As discussed previously, the Pilot and new sites are located in a predominantly African American, very low-income area called Hyde Park. This information was derived from the 1998 Hyde Park Neighborhood Survey Report conducted by Augusta State University, 2000 census records, and City records. The Hyde Park area typifies the blight caused by Brownfield properties and has contributed to the general deterioration, reduced tax base, and disinvestments in the target area. The economic inactivity with these sites further contributes to the slow or negative job growth and associated unemployment for this low-income community. As discussed in B.2 above, numerous residents have developed health problems that may be attributed to the adjacent industrial activities and a drainage ditch outflow from the Pilot site that bisects the neighborhood. Environmental sampling results from ditch surface water showed elevated levels of lead and heavy metals. High lead and PCBs were also found in the ditch sediments. EPA has also conducted several removal actions in residences along Walnut Street next to the Pilot site. Based upon these results, migration of contaminants from the Pilot site have migrated off-site and impacted the residential area of Hyde Park.

Environmental justice factors also relate to the target area, and redevelopment will greatly improve conditions from both an economic and aesthetic perspective. As discussed in the community involvement portion of this Proposal (Part E), we will ensure that these disadvantaged populations have a voice in this Expansion Project, and we will perform outreach to these environmental justice communities by encouraging their participation at the community meetings, seminars, and by soliciting their input throughout the Project. We will also ensure that the environmental risks associated with industrial and commercial development (non-manufacturing) will be removed by attracting clean industries, thus improving the environmental conditions of these areas.

B.4 Criteria Response

As discussed in B.1 above, every effort to identify contaminants and routes of exposure to the community members of Hyde Park will be performed. One of the specific goals of this grant is to complete environmental assessments and remedial action plans for the sites. As such, this should effectively reduce threats to the health and welfare of these sensitive populations by identifying the location and concentration of industrial contaminants, and providing the necessary data to develop remedial action plans that will effectively mitigate exposure pathway and protect these sensitive populations.

It is our intent to conduct Phase I and Phase II ESAs at the two new sites, develop one or more comprehensive conceptual plans for site reuse, and maintain/expand the Brownfield site inventory area and provide this information on a website and updated City Geographic Information System (GIS).

We will also continue development of a program for training community members in Internet and GIS

applications so that they can access information on their local environments. Our Project Website will contain instruction guides for using Internet and GIS software to investigate community environmental issues, as well as up-to-date information on the Brownfields Program, the community stakeholders role in site redevelopment, continual updates on Project progress, and requests for community input.

Additionally, we will compile all of the above information into one booklet/binder that will also include all of the information provided at our community seminars. We will partner with the EPD, the United States Department of Energy (USDOE), the Massie Chairs of Excellence, and other institutes of higher education, such as Georgia Institute of Technology, Paine College and Augusta State University to develop this booklet/binder into a comprehensive guide for the public access of information about environmental issues, health issues, as well as various state and federal programs that solicit citizen input.

B.5 Criteria Response

Augusta department/agencies are committed to working on this project and will assist with any problems that might arise in zoning and land use, transportation, housing and traffic problems. Augusta's Environmental Engineer will serve as the Project Manager for the Expansion project. As discussed in B.1 above the RCHD remains committed to assisting community members and the City regarding human health issues. One consideration is to obtain grant monies to perform an epidemiological study of the Hyde Park community.

Based upon our experience with the Pilot project, we anticipate similar cooperation among local, state and federal regulators. Since the Pilot site is on Georgia's Hazardous Sites Inventory (HSI), Georgia EPD has been involved in site characterization and remediation efforts. There was extensive data sharing between the EPD contractor and the City's consultant that resulted in effective planning and use of federal dollars. Both state and federal regulators remained flexible on the scope, budget, and scheduling issues so that the common goal of protecting human health and the environment was achieved. As with the Pilot site we expect this Expansion Project to be a prime example of City, State, and Federal regulatory bodies working together for a common goal.

As discussed B.3 above, and E.3 below, the idea for the original Pilot was conceived and generated by the Hyde Park community. Community and City leaders make up the Brownfields Commission, and lead the revitalization efforts. The Environmental Justice Community of Hyde Park is committed to this Expansion Project and will continue to be involved throughout the Project to ensure that these disadvantaged populations have a voice.

C. Reuse of Existing Infrastructure

C.1 Criteria Response

The target properties have excellent redevelopment potential and accessibility for business locations. The target properties are located directly off the four-lane Gordon Highway and Doug Barnard Parkway and both provide connections to Dan Bowles Road that fronts the properties. Doug Barnard Parkway provides immediate access to Augusta's Regional Airport, which is only 15 minutes away.

With the exception of some of the homes in Hyde Park, little to no existing infrastructure will be reused. The buildings located on the former Richmond Recycling property are dilapidated metal buildings, provide no value, and will be demolished prior to any redevelopment activities. The target properties are currently connected to the City's municipal water and sewerage systems; however, we

anticipate that the water, sewer, and storm water drainage systems will require upgrading in order to handle future business endeavors on the sites. We also anticipate working with the local utility companies to install fiber-optic lines and other associated infrastructure that would support higher technology industries.

As discussed in A.1 above, we are researching and in preliminary discussions with several investors, developers, and environmentally friendly businesses to locate within the target area. While a final development plan has not been completed, or developers contracted for the sites, we anticipate that sites will be redeveloped for non-manufacturing industrial use with professional office spaces, training/education centers, and a non-profit community center. We are committed to redevelopment that will ultimately invest in our community, provide clean safe employment opportunities, and increase our tax base with sustainable business.

C.2 Criteria Response

As stated in C.1 above, little to no existing infrastructure will be reused since existing buildings and structures are dilapidated and provide no value to prospective future businesses. Water and sewer utilities will require upgrades. We will also work with the local utility companies to install the necessary infrastructure to support higher technology industries.

D. Greenspace/Open Space

D.1 Criteria Response

The desire for appropriate greenspace property and the goal of redeveloping environmentally compromised properties are compatible with each other. One of the development goals of the Hyde Park community is to develop a plan for incorporation of greenspace and/or tree-laden buffer zones that surround the business and technology park area, and integrates landscaping around buildings and access/egress roads. The greenspace area(s) will include amenities not only for local residents, but for employees of the business/technology park such as, walking paths, courtyard picnic tables and benches, and a non-profit community recreational facility. Additionally, since this area was at one time a natural wetland similar to the nearby Phinizy Swamp, we envision restoring portions of the target area to an approximately two-acre low-lands habitat and/or wetland area that would also include signage and educational opportunities for the community.

D.2 Criteria Response

The Pilot site was the first EPA Brownfields Grant awarded based on an application completed by a community. The community that developed the original Pilot remains committed to this Expansion Project. The Expansion Project would be highly integrated with the ongoing efforts to cleanup and redevelop the Pilot site. As discussed in A.1 above, as a result of the Pilot efforts, the Goldberg Brother's Salvage Yard is expected to meet EPD non-residential standards by the Fall of 2003, and preliminary conceptual ideas for redevelopment have begun. We would expect that with the integration of the two new sites, the ultimate outcome would be similar to that of the Pilot where we will meet EPD standards and have shovel-ready sites for development within the life of the Grant.

E. Community Involvement

E.1 Criteria Response

The previous Pilot was conceived by the community as a community-based initiative, has continued

strong community-based leadership and support, and was the first EPA Brownfields Grant awarded based upon an application by a community. The unified community of Hyde Park and surrounding environs is dedicated and committed to cleaning up its neighborhoods. The community aspect is the most dominant part of the Pilot and continuing brownfields efforts in the area.

The previous Pilot Grant allowed us to enable 15 community members to attend the 2002 Charlotte Brownfields Conference to expand the community's vision of the Brownfield Program and considerable input has been and continues to be provided by these individuals. Further, the Augusta - Richmond County Neighborhood Alliance Association (Alliance) was formed that includes 42 neighborhoods, Mayor Young, City Administrators, and Commission members. The Alliance established block "captains" and a telephone network system to facilitate contact with the majority if not all neighborhood residents in the Hyde Park area and beyond. This Alliance allows us to rapidly distribute and disseminate information to the community(s) by telephone, posting of flyers at known "bulletin-board" locations, and through one-on-one contact.

Initial notice that this Grant Application was being developed was given at the Brownfields Commission's October, 2002 meeting and discussed further at the November, 2002 meeting. The Application has also been discussed with various community groups to reconfirm their support of this effort (refer to Contact Information contained in Appendix B), and overwhelming support has been repeatedly given. Notice of the February, 2003 Brownfields Commission meeting where this Final Proposal would be discussed in detail, and that requested public participation and comment was provided through public service announcements by several local radio and television stations; through distribution of 500 flyers to local churches, schools, and community centers; and through our Alliance block captains and telephone network.

Public notice of the intent to submit this Final Proposal to the EPA and a listing of locations where the Proposal could be reviewed was placed in the Augusta Chronicle newspaper on **March X**, 2003, and public service announcements by local radio and television stations of the intent was also given. A Public Meeting to seek the community's input to this Final Proposal was held on March 13, 2003 at the Clara Jenkins Elementary School and public comment was overwhelmingly positive and supportive of this Proposal. As such, the community is well aware of this Proposal, has contributed greatly to its development, and we expect community participation to continue as well as increase the overall revitalization effort.

Further, we feel strongly that public participation is key to a successful Brownfields redevelopment strategy. The Augusta Brownfields Program, managed by the Mayor's Brownfields Commission was established in 1999 with implementation of the previous Pilot. Several highly successful community workshops and seminars have been sponsored with the previous Pilot grant, and we are planning additional public workshops, and seminars including a two-day Revitalization Conference scheduled for April 8-9, 2003 that will showcase the Pilot site.

The Revitalization Conference will bring together community groups and the government and private sector to showcase the highly successful Pilot site. We will also invite the Federal Interagency Working Group to determine how collaboration with that organization may provide benefit, and assist us in introducing our successful methodology to other community groups. We have had considerable collaboration with City, State, and Federal entities throughout the Pilot and intend to continue to involve these and other entities with the Expansion Project.

We will also expand our existing Public Participation Program. The Commission will continue to hold its regular, monthly public meetings and quarterly community seminars at the Mary Utley Community Center in Hyde Park and to solicit community input at these meetings. These well publicized meetings and seminars keep the community aware of the ongoing efforts to revitalize the neighborhood and to explore additional funding to revitalize the neighborhood. In addition, these seminars and public workshops help educate community members about Brownfields Redevelopment processes, facilitate their input into the redevelopment phase of the Project, and improve the flow of information to the community. The City of Augusta and the Brownfields Commission take every opportunity to solicit and develop community-based solutions to community environmental problems, including remedies for land uses and revitalization activities, and will continue to strive to improve community participation in the decision making process.

We will also develop a program for training community members in Internet and GIS applications so that they can access information on their local environments. Our Project Website will contain instruction guides for using Internet and GIS software to investigate community environmental issues, as well as up-to-date information on the Brownfields Program, the community stakeholders role in site redevelopment, continual updates on Project progress, and requests for community input.

Additionally, we will compile all of the above information into one booklet/binder that will include all of the information provided at our community seminars. We will partner with the Georgia EPD, the United States Department of Energy (USDOE), the Massie Chairs of Excellence, and other institutes of higher education, such as Georgia Institute of Technology, Paine College and Augusta State University to develop this booklet/binder into a comprehensive guide for the public access of information about environmental issues, as well as various state and federal programs that solicit citizen input.

E.2 Criteria Response

It is anticipated that by expanding the Pilot to include the two additional sites, we will be able to expand and facilitate community participation in site redevelopment and environmental problem solving. Also, as stated above we will partner with the Georgia EPA, USDOE, the Massie Chairs of Excellence, and other institutes of higher education, such as Georgia Institute of Technology, Paine College and Augusta State University to develop a booklet/binder into a comprehensive guide.

Also, as indicated throughout this Proposal, with the initiation of the Pilot the community formed many partnerships with local, city, state, federal and private sector entities and many are listed in the Contact Information included in Appendix B. All of these partnerships remain relevant to this Proposal. With the dedication, commitment and resolve shown by the community and community leaders to clean up and redevelop the Pilot site, we expect that additional partnerships will be formed which will enable us to make this Expansion Project as successful as the Pilot.

E.3 Criteria Response

The City of Augusta and the Brownfields Commission take every opportunity to solicit and develop community-based solutions to community environmental problems, including remedies for land uses and revitalization activities, and will continue to strive to improve community participation in the decision making process.

The Commission will continue to hold its regular, monthly public meetings and quarterly public seminars to involve and solicit community input. Public workshops will also be conducted to educate

community members about Brownfields redevelopment processes and facilitate their input into the redevelopment phase of the overall project.

The Alliance will continue to grow and be utilized to facilitate contact with the neighborhood residents of the Hyde Park area and beyond. This allows us to rapidly distribute and disseminate information to the community(s) by telephone, posting of flyers at known “bulletin-board” locations, and through one-on-one contact.

As mentioned above, computers will be purchased under this Grant and used by community members to access the Project Website and City GIS database. This is another useful tool that will allow the residents of Hyde Park to monitor the progress of the assessment and provide input into redevelopment decisions.

Finally, we clearly have the dedication, commitment and resolve to clean up and redevelop these new sites along with the Pilot site. We expect that this will enable us to make this Expansion Project highly successful.

E.4 Criteria Response

Our Public Participation Program is very strong. The Commission will continue to hold its regular, monthly public meetings and quarterly community seminars to provide information on the status of the ongoing project(s) and solicit community input. By wide-area publicizing these meetings and seminars through public service announcements, our Alliance network, and Internet Website will keep the community aware of the ongoing efforts to revitalize the neighborhood. Further, these seminars and public workshops educate community members about Brownfields processes, facilitate input, and improve the flow of information to the community. As indicated throughout this Proposal, we take every opportunity to solicit input and develop community-based solutions to environmental problems, remedies for land uses, revitalization activities, and will continue this effort with the Expansion Project.

Community training will also be conducted so that residents can access information on their local environments. Our Project Website will not only provide continual updates on Project progress, but will contain instruction guides for using software to investigate community environmental issues, the community’s role in site redevelopment, and requests for community input. As applicable, this information will also be communicated in other languages so that all our community members have access to up-to-date information.